

Appl. No. 09/250,027

Response Dated November 12, 2007

Reply to Office Action Dated October 15, 2007

III. In the Drawings

In the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, the Draftsperson objected to the drawings as having improper margins. This informality will be corrected within the proper time period after a Notice of Allowability is mailed.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-6 and 10-20 have been previously cancelled. Claims 7-9 and 21-28 remain in this application.

I. Response to the Non-Compliant Amendment Action

Applicant has added Claims 1-6 and 10-20 to the claim listing and indicated that such claims are cancelled. Applicant believes that this amendment and response resolves the issues raised by the Non-Compliant Action. Applicant, therefore, requests entry of this Amendment and reconsideration of the case in view of the amendments and remarks provided herein.

II. Response to Abandonment

This application stands as abandoned for failure to respond to an office action. A Petition for Revival of an Application for Patent Abandoned Unintentionally Under 37 CFR 1.137(b) and fees are enclosed. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application as amended.

III. Response to Office Action

Claims 7-9 and 21-28 are pending in the application. The Specification was objected to for informalities. The abstract stands objected to as being too long. The drawings have been objected to as having informalities. Such informalities will be corrected within the appropriate time period after a Notice of Allowability is mailed. Claims 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. Claims 7-9 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Traugher et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,256,678). Claims 22-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Traugher et al. in view of Franklin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,214,756).

The specification and abstract have been amended in this response. Claims 7, 8, 9, and 21-28 have been amended in this response. No claims have been added. No new matter has

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been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims in light of these amendments and the following remarks.

A. Specification Objection

The specification has been amended to correct spelling errors. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the specification as amended is proper.

B Abstract Objection

The abstract was objected to as being too long. The abstract has been amended accordingly. Applicant respectfully submits that the abstract as amended is proper.

C. The §112 Rejection

Claims 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for the recitation of the limitation of "the practice" of the event as recited by these claims. Claim 7 has been amended to recite in part "the practice of the event by the operator in the first client application ...". No new matter has been added in the amendment. Support for this amendment and the limitation of "the practice" of the event by the operator can be found in the specification as filed, for example at page 12, lines 34 -36 ("and when a first event of the plurality of events is being practiced by an operator in a first client application ..."). (Emphasis added.) See also specification page 26, line 22 through page 29, line 19 (with examples of how the events are practiced). Because the operator is working in a particular client application when he or she practices the event (by selecting information in a window of that client application using a mouse and a cursor, for example - see page 26, lines 24-35 of the specification as filed), it is correct to say (as the specification does, see page 32, lines 17-22) that the client application "practices" the event, but it is perhaps more precise to say that the operator practices the event. Therefore claim

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7 has been amended to reflect this language and as amended is supported by the specification and is sufficiently definite to satisfy the statute.

Since claims 8 and 9 are dependent on claim 7, and contain all of its limitations, they, too, are sufficiently definite to satisfy the statute.

D. The §103 Rejections

Claims 7-9 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Traughber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,256,678). Claims 22-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Traughber et al. in view of Franklin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,214,756).

1. The Rejections over Traughber

The Examiner asserts that Traughber teaches the elements of claim 7 as filed, other than the input means (Office Action, page 4, paragraphs 1-5), and teaches the transmission and reception means receiving "an interest object from the second client application via a server (client-server, col. 14, lines 1-12) ..." (Office Action, page 5, paragraph 2). In column 14, lines 1-12, Traughber teaches an embodiment having "a simple client-server protocol where the protocol in the server application 27a can handle multiple client applications 27b, but the client applications 27b can only communicate with one server application 27a. The server application 27a thus creates one instance of the Adapter object type 2b, one instance of the Resource object type 2c...." In this Traughber embodiment, therefore, the client applications can only communicate with the server application but the server application can communicate with all client applications.

Clam 7 as currently amended reads:

Apparatus adapted to be disposed within a first client application for intercommunicating with a second client application, comprising:

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- (a) setup means including predefinition storage means for selectively predefining and storing one or more events, one or more interest objects corresponding respectively to the one or more events, and one or more functions corresponding respectively to the one or more events, the one or more events including a particular event;
- (b) input means for receiving an input from an operator corresponding to the practice of the particular event by the first client application and for presenting one or more functions to the operator in response to receipt of a second event; and
- (c) transmission and reception means for:
 - 1. receiving an interest object corresponding to the particular event transmitted from the second client application via a server to the first client application to be stored in the predefinition storage means and
 - 2. transmitting a set of information associated with the particular event stored in the predefinition storage means directly to the second client application without going through the server when the particular event is practiced by the first client application in response to the input provided by the operator via the input means.

No new matter has been added. Support for this amendment is found in the specification as filed (see, for example, page 12, line 23 through page 13, line 11) and in claim 8 as filed.

In contrast to the teachings of Traugher in column 14, in addition to containing the input means limitation, claim 7 as amended recites that the second client application sends an interest object to the first client application via a server ("receiving an interest object corresponding to the particular event transmitted from the second client application via a server to the first client application"), but when the event occurs or is practiced by a user, information concerning the event is sent from the first client application to the second client application directly, without

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going through the server ("transmitting a set of information associated with the particular event stored in the predefinition storage means directly to the second client application without going through the server"). This results in saving valuable processing time. See specification as filed at 28, lines 30-33. While Traugher teaches a variety of different methods of communication between applications, applicant does not believe that Traugher shows any such teaching. Accordingly, claim 7 as amended is felt to distinguish patentably over Traugher.

Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Traugher. Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to reduce redundancy with claim 7 as amended and to clarify the language of the claims. No new matter has been added; support for the amendments being found in claims 8 and 9 respectively as filed. Because claims 8 and 9 are dependent on claim 7 as amended and contain all of its limitations, claims 8 and 9 are felt to be distinguishable from the Traugher reference in the same manner as claim 7 as amended.

Claim 21 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Traugher. Claim 21 has been amended to recite:

21. Client application apparatus, comprising:

storage means for storing a plurality of events, a plurality of functions associated, respectively, with the plurality of events, and a plurality of interest objects associated, respectively, with the plurality of events;

transmission and reception means for:

transmitting a first set of one or more of the plurality of interest objects to other client applications via a server;

receiving a second set of one or more of the plurality of interest objects from other client applications via a server;

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transmitting one or more of the plurality of events corresponding to the second set of interest objects directly to other client applications, without going through a server, when a user of the client application practices one or more of the plurality of events; receiving one or more of the plurality of events, corresponding to the first set of interest objects, sent directly from other client applications when an operator of one or more of the other client applications practices one or more of the plurality of events and input means for making a events-to-be-transmitted selection for which of the plurality of events stored in the storage means will be transmitted to the other client applications and for making a events-to-be-received selection for which of the plurality of events stored in the storage means will be received from the other client applications and generating a signal in response thereto representative of the events-to-be-transmitted selection and of the events-to-be-received selection; and wherein the transmission and reception means is responsive to the signal from the input means to transmit the events-to-be-transmitted selection of events to the other client applications via the server and to receive directly from the other client applications the events-to-be-received selection of events.

No new matter has been added. Support for this amendment is found in the specification as filed (see, for example, page 12, line 23 through page 13, line 11 and 57, line 29 through page 60, line 10), claim 8 as filed and in claim 21 as filed.

Claim 21 as amended recites in part that the transmitting and receiving means is for:

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“transmitting a first set of one or more of the plurality of interest objects to other

client applications via a server;

receiving a second set of one or more of the plurality of interest objects from

other client applications via a server;

transmitting one or more of the plurality of events corresponding to the second

set of interest objects directly to other client applications, without going

through a server, when a user of the client application practices one or

more of the plurality of events;

receiving one or more of the plurality of events, corresponding to the first set

of interest objects, sent directly from other client applications when an

operator of one or more of the other client applications practices one or

more of the plurality of events...

wherein the transmission and reception means is responsive to the signal from

the input means to transmit the events-to-be-transmitted selection of

events to the other client applications via the server and to receive

directly from the other client applications the events-to-be-received

selection of events.”

(Emphasis added) As with the discussion with respect to claim 7, Traugher teaches, among others, an embodiment where the server can communicate with all client applications but the client applications can communicate only with the server, but this is different from the instant claim which recites a transmission and receiving means such that there are circumstances where the client applications communicate with each other through the server and circumstances where

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the client applications communicate with each other directly. Thus, like claim 7, claim 21 as amended is felt to be patentably distinguishable from Traughber.

2. The Rejections over Traughber in view of Franklin.

Claims 22-24 and 25-28 have been rejected over Traughber in view of Franklin. Claims 22 - 24 have been amended to clarify the language used, but no new matter has been added and support for these amendments can be found, respectively, in claims 22-24 as filed. Claim 22-24 are dependent on claim 21 and contain all of its limitations. Accordingly, claims 22-24 are felt to be likewise distinguishable from Traughber. Franklin teaches a visual display and communication between client applications which allow copying or moving of icons, but does not seem to teach or suggest the particular communication arrangement between client applications and server as recited by claims 22-24 as amended (being dependent upon and containing the limitations of claim 21 as amended). Specifically, Franklin, like Traughber, does not teach a transmission and receiving means for communicating with other client applications through a server in some instances and directly in other instances. Thus, even if Franklin is combined with the teaching of Traughber, one would still lack the transmission and receiving means which allows communicating with other client applications through a server in some circumstances (transmitting and receiving interest objects) and communicating with other client applications directly in other circumstances (transmitting and receiving events). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 22-24 are patentably distinguishable over the combination of Traughber and Franklin.

Claims 25-28 were also rejected over Traughber in view of Franklin. Claim 25 has been amended to recite:

25. A workstation based system comprising:

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a display screen for displaying one or more windows;

a plurality of client applications for presenting the one or more windows on the display screen for viewing by an operator, each of the client applications including:

icon generating means for generating an icon in the window on the display screen of each client application, the icon being operative responsive to a signal generated in response to input from the operator;

storage means for storing a plurality of events and a corresponding plurality of functions and a corresponding plurality of interest objects;

transmission and reception means for receiving one or more of the interest objects from one or more of the other client applications via a server;

comparison means responsive to the input signal from the icon for comparing the one or more interest objects received in the transmission and reception means with the plurality of interest objects stored in the storage means and identifying one or more events stored in the storage means when the one or more interest objects received in the transmission and reception means corresponds to one or more of the plurality of interest objects stored in the storage means;

the comparison means selecting some or all or none of the one or more events stored in the storage means, identified by the comparison means, in response to the input signal from the icon; and

framework means responsive to the selection of the some or all or none of the one or more events by the comparison means for transmitting the some or all

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or none of the one or more events from the client application directly to
the other client applications, without going through the server.

(Emphasis added.) No new matter has been added. Support for this amendment is found in the specification as filed (see, for example, page 12, line 23 through page 13, line 11 and 57, line 29 through page 60, line 10), claim 8 as filed and in claim 25 as filed. Note that claim 25 recites in part "transmission and reception means for receiving one or more of the interest objects from one or more of the other client applications via a server" and "framework means ... for transmitting the some or all or none of the one or more events from the client application directly to the other client applications, without going through the server." As with the discussion with respect to claims 22-24, neither Traughber nor Franklin teaches such a transmission and receiving means or such a framework means. Thus, even if the teaching of Franklin is combined with the teaching of Traughber, one would still lack these limitations of the claim. Accordingly, claim 25 is felt to be patentable over the combination of Traughber and Franklin.

Claims 26-28 have been amended to clarify the language but no new matter has been added and the amendments find support, respectively in claims 26-28 as filed. Claims 26-28 are dependent on claim 25 and contain all of its limitations. Accordingly, claims 26-28 are felt to be likewise patentable over a combination of Traughber and Franklin.

IV. CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated December 19, 2002, for which the 6-month date for response was June 19, 2002. Applicant previously submitted a response with a petition to revive (copy attached). Please apply any charges not covered or any credits, to Deposit Account 07-1078 (Reference Number 59.0010).

Date: 11/12/07

Respectfully submitted,

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